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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME IX. COMMON SUPPORT SERVICES

Programme 40. Administrative direction and management

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 40, Administrative direction and management, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The revisions have been made to clarify and update existing text, particularly in connection with organizational changes in the Department

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Asssembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A//47/6/Rev.1).

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of Administration and Management resulting from the restructuring of the Secretariat, including the assumption of responsibility for conference services.

4. The following text modifies paragraphs 40.1 to 40.10, 40.16, 40.17, 40.27, 40.29, 40.30, 40.37 and 40.42 to 40.45 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

A. Major programme

5. Following the restructuring of the Secretariat, it is proposed to merge major programme IX, Conference services, and major programme X, Administrative services, into a new major programme IX, Common support services.

B. Programme

1. General orientation

Paragraph 40.1 — In the penultimate line, add reference to General Assembly resolutions 45/254 and 46/232.

Paragraphs 40.2-40.9 — Replace the paragraphs with the following and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"40.2 The main objective of the programme is to enhance the efficiency of the Organization in the administrative, financial and human resources areas by providing clear guidance on further restructuring and streamlining of relevant functions along with policy direction and central leadership to the Secretariat, including offices away from Headquarters, on issues relating to administrative management, internal audit, medium-term and programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, budgetary, financial and human resources management, innovations policies, general services, publishing and conference services.

"40.3 A smooth-running and effective administrative structure for the Organization as a whole is essential, especially at a time when the Organization's substantive responsibilities have multiplied, and in which its operations have become progressively more complex and geographically dispersed. The role of administration must therefore be to support the Organization's activities in the maintenance of peace and security and in the area of economic and social development as set out in the Charter.

"40.4 Following the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 41/213, a major reform programme was launched at the end of the 1980s to streamline the structure of the Organization, to strengthen managerial authority and simplify administrative and financial procedures. In 1992, a renewed effort was made with the aim of increasing productivity and cost-effectiveness. These goals will continue to guide the restructuring and reforms through the planned period. To achieve it, vigorous steps will be taken to strengthen internal management and financial controls using modern management techniques and through increased audit activities; the system of internal justice will be made more expeditious, placing greater emphasis on conciliation measures; the framework for the staff-management relations will be further reviewed and improved. Technological innovations will continue to be introduced where it can be demonstrated that they will improve the capacity of the Organization to deliver its mandate more effectively.

2. Overall strategy

Paragraph 40.10 Replace the paragraph with the following:

"The programme will continue to be implemented by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management at Headquarters, the functions and organizational structure of which are described in the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/Organization, section P, of March 1976, and his note of 21 February 1992 (A/46/882, para. 13). On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management will continue to provide central policy guidance, coordination and direction to all offices in the Secretariat, at Headquarters and away from Headquarters, on issues pertaining to finance, human resources, conference services, general services and technological innovations management in order to promote and enhance the policy coherence of the Organization in those areas."

C. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

Paragraph 40.16 At the end of the paragraph, replace resolutions 43/216 and 44/183 with resolutions 45/235 and 46/183.

Paragraph 40.17 Replace the paragraph with the following:

"As the activities and financial transactions of the Organization increase in number and complexity, management and financial controls have to be monitored for their effectiveness in reducing or minimizing the risks of waste, fraud and abuse, and in facilitating the efficient and economical use of resources for the achievement of programme goals as intended by legislative bodies and management. Of special importance is the question of the effectiveness of the existing internal controls, in particular with respect to offices and other operations away from Headquarters. There is a growing concern in the General Assembly that the Organization's extrabudgetary resources, which now exceed the regular budget, have not received the same degree of audit attention, particularly as to whether the resources are being utilized efficiently, economically and effectively and for the purposes intended. The design, development and coming into operation of the new integrated management information system demand correspondingly new auditing competence and skills in ensuring both that effective controls are built into the system and that electronic data-processing audits are carried out."

SUBPROGRAMME 2. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Paragraph 40.27 In the first sentence, replace "will be" with "have been".

Paragraph 40.29 Replace the paragraph by the first sentence of paragraph 40.30, reading as follows:

"Assistance will continue to be provided to staff members on appeals and disciplinary matters through the Panel of Counsel."

Paragraph 40.30 Replace the paragraph by the text of existing paragraph 40.29 and add the following sentence at the end: "Other measures to avoid appeals to the extent possible will be identified, such as better information on pertinent policies and procedures, as well as training of managers.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS POLICIES

Paragraph 40.37 Replace the paragraph with the following: "The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 43/217 of 21 December 1988, by which the Assembly approved the implementation of phase I of the integrated management information system project, resolution 44/200 C, on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and

financial functioning of the United Nations and, in particular, on the importance of technological innovations in relation to the search for efficiency in the Organization and resolution 46/185 B, section VI, on technological innovations, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/60 of 31 July 1992, on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimum utilization and accessibility by all States."

Paragraph 40.42 Delete the last two sentences.

Paragraphs 40.43 and 40.44 Replace the paragraphs with the following:

"By the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/219 of 4 June 1986 the Technological Innovations Board was established, and by ST/SGB/245 of 5 December 1991 its terms of reference were expanded to include all aspects of office automation, as represented by software and hardware related to microcomputers and minicomputers, and all aspects of mainframe computer applications and operations, and local and global telecommunications, along with any activity that has at its core a computer, micro-, mini- or mainframe. Board determines and promulgates policies, standards and procedures relating to the acquisition and use of advanced technology, including selection criteria and applications development. While the primary responsibility for initiating and implementing policies and procedures dealing with those matters at Headquarters has been given to the Electronic Services Division of the Office of General Services, Department of Administration and Management, that Division, plays an advisory role vis-à-vis the Technological Innovations Board and other offices and is responsible for ensuring the compatibility of the components of the technological infrastructure. Efforts will be targeted at integrating duty stations into a fully functioning data-processing and communications network through the development, coordination and monitoring of policies, strategies and standards on an Organization-wide basis."

Paragraph 40.45 In the last sentence, replace "will" with "may".

After the paragraph, insert a new paragraph reading:

"A major effort will be made to facilitate access to United Nations databases for Member States, entities within the Organization, and the other organizations in the United Nations system."